

## **POTPOURRI NOTICE**

### **Department of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Assessment Division of Environmental Planning**

#### **Solicitation of Comments on Revisions to Air Quality Permitting Offset Ratios (0009Pot4)**

The 5-parish Baton Rouge ozone nonattainment area (Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes) did not meet the 1999 statutory deadline to comply with the one-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). The LDEQ is preparing an Ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) to bring the 5 parishes into ozone attainment for the one-hour ozone NAAQS. Under consideration are emission reductions at point sources (industrial facilities), area sources (small businesses), and mobile sources (automobiles). Specifically, the LDEQ is considering increasing air quality permitting offsets in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge from a ratio of 1.2:1.0 to a ratio of 1.3:1.0. The provision (LAC 33:III.504.Table 1) that allows 1.3:1.0 internal offsets in place of Lowest Achievable Emission Rate (LAER) would be removed.

Rules to implement emission reductions must be promulgated for inclusion in the SIP. Any proposed rule must include a Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, as required by R.S. 49:953. Further, the LDEQ is required by R.S. 30:2019(D) and R.S. 49:953(G) to perform a cost/benefit and risk analysis if a rule has a fiscal impact of \$1 million or more and is not required for compliance with a federal law or regulation.

The LDEQ requests all interested parties to submit information and comments to the Department for consideration. The LDEQ specifically requests comments that address the following:

1. What are the expected environmental benefits and/or disadvantages of the offset increase under consideration?
2. What are the potential risks to human health and the environment?
3. What implementation costs, if any, would be incurred?
4. Other information or comments regarding offset ratios.

Written comments should be submitted to Ms. Patsy Deaville, Program Manager, Regulation Development Section, Box 82178, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2178. All comments should be received no later than 4:30 p.m. CST on Wednesday, November 1, 2000. Comments may also be faxed to Ms. Deaville's attention at (225) 765-5095 or hand-delivered to the LDEQ main building located at 7290 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Fourth Floor. Persons commenting should reference this document as "Offset Ratios."

Should the LDEQ propose a rule to implement a revision to air quality permitting offsets, the public will have an additional opportunity to comment during the rulemaking process.

James H. Brent, Ph.D.  
Assistant Secretary